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The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on December 23 concerning this case. In that interview, the undersigned proposed removing the functional language of Claim 1 directed to "generator for producing a controllable magnetic field over the surface of said workpiece". The reason for this proposal is that it is felt that such functional language is unnecessary. The Examiner responded by encouraging the undersigned to submit an amendment under Rule 312. This amendment is the result of that interview.

Claims 1-31 now remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended.

A Notice of Allowance has been received in the above-identified application but the Issue Fee, as yet, has not been paid. The amendment does not add new matter or raise new issues and no new search is required. Thus, because the above amendments are minor and do not involve new matter, it is believed that they may be entered under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.312 without withdrawing the application from issue. Accordingly, the Applicants kindly request entry of the above amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert M. Wallace
Reg. No. 29,119
Attorney for Applicants
Customer No. 000044843

Robert M. Wallace
Patent Attorney
2112 Eastman Avenue, Suite 102
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 644-4035